



# The Purple Press

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 4

PHOENIXVILLE AREA HIGH SCHOOL

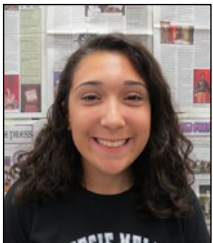
“HOME OF THE PHANTOMS”

1200 GAY STREET

FEBRUARY, 2020

PHOENIXVILLE, PA 19460

## The newest Phoenixville tradition: The Winter Ball



Written by:  
Isabelle Butera

No one knew what to expect for the 2020 NHS Winter Ball. The dance first started just last year, with fairly minimal turnout. But one step into the Manavon gymnasium on that first Friday of February, and all uncertainties were cast aside.

Every wall was covered with fairy lights, tassel or mock icebergs, practically disguising the room's normal function. Classy white tables decorated with snowflakes centerpieces were placed around an open dance floor. Most students were clustered in front of the DJ, singing along to the chart topping songs and actually *dancing*.

The National Honor Society hosted the ball with the goal of building school unity.

“The winter ball is something we created to bring the school together,” NHS President Sophie Taylor explained.

mix of current rap and pop for dancing, and a few throwback songs. He ended the night with John Legend's “All of Me” for any couples who wanted to slow dance.

In between dancing, students snacked on a wide variety of treats, including cookies, cupcakes, soft pretzels, and even hot chocolate to enhance the winter theme.

A high point of the night was the crowning of Ice King and Queen. Anyone at the dance could cast their vote for ball royalty. At the end of the night, it was announced that junior Morgan Beatty and senior Parker Stevens



Happy Winter Ball attendees: **Chloe Sindaco, Parker Stevens, Tyler Pekofsky, Gonzalo Rambla, Kaitlyn Marwah, and Emma Ferry.**

Photo courtesy of Tyler Pekofsky

were voted Winter Ball royalty.

Winter Ball Ice King Parker Stevens said, “When I was working the entrance collecting tickets and getting votes...I never would have thought that they were voting for me. When I heard my name I was in awe that my classmates would put me down for such a cool award.”

Winter Ball Queen Morgan Beatty said, “I was surprised that I won Ice Queen and wasn't expecting it at all, but I had a lot of

fun with all my friends.”

Overall, the Winter Ball was a chilling success. 288 tickets were sold overall (a significant increase from last year) and students enjoyed the event, with almost everyone dancing for the majority of the night.

“I'm super happy with how the ball went,” said Taylor, “and I am super happy with all the work NHS put in and that a lot of people came, especially those outside of NHS.”

The work doesn't stop now that this year's ball is over. Junior officer Madison O'Neill aims to continue this new tradition, saying, “We want the Winter Ball to be carried on for years to come, even when we are all gone.”

PHOENIXVILLE AREA HIGH SCHOOL

## Winter Ball

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH, 2020  
7 PM AT MANAVON GYM

“We wanted to bring underclassmen to the dance, so it wasn't just something for NHS, and it wasn't just something for juniors and seniors. It is really something for the whole school to get involved in”.

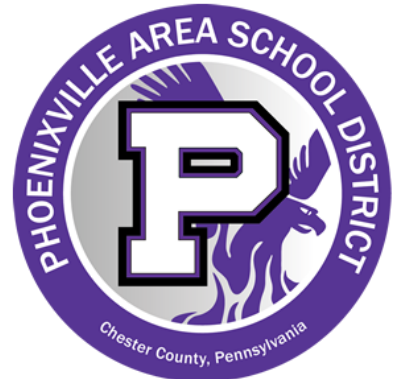
The Winter Ball is distinctly different from Homecoming and Prom, and managed its own classy atmosphere. But compared to Prom, the dance is more laid back.

NHS Vice President Ryan Aclan explained, “There's not as much formality... you can just go and have fun...Way more people dance and you don't have a lot of people sitting on the sides.”

DJ Shawn T provided the music for the night, playing a



Students enjoying the Winter Ball  
Photo courtesy of Mrs. Weinstein



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## Eleonora Oliveri: From Italy to PAHS



**Written by:**  
Karl Muth

It's not often we consider traveling to another country to live there, let alone go to school; however, foreign exchange student Eleonora Oliveri, or Lele as her friends know her, is currently experiencing it. Eleonora is visiting the US from Milan, Italy, which is a large city on the north side of the country. She is living with a host family, Kristi and Jose Beltran, with two children, Marcus and Elsa, one in elementary school and one in middle school. She communicates back to her family in Italy two to three times a week through texting, Face Time, and Skype. Usually, they have to set up a meeting time in advance, as there is a six-hour time difference between Italy and the United States.

Eleonora decided to experience the



**Eleonora with her family in Italy, at the airport before she left to come to America**

foreign exchange program following a tradition in her family. Her dad went into the program when he was in university and described it as "the best years of his life." While she is younger than when her father did the program, her father said "if he could, he would've done it sooner."

She also entered the program because she loves traveling to new places.

Eleonora described the atmosphere of Phoenixville she has said to be "very welcoming" and her favorite attribute of Phoenixville has been the community. She feels the students and teachers in the school are very welcoming and nice, helping her get to her classes on her first day here. Compared to Italy, the biggest difference between home and Phoenixville is the change from a city to a smaller town. She describes teachers back home as more

listening to music and going to concerts. She also practices horse riding, and she has the opportunity to practice here with her host sister. After high school she plans on going to university in Italy, or

other European countries, and is thinking of going into political science.

So far Eleonora's favorite memory at PAHS has been participating on the Cross-Country team.

"I've never practiced Cross-Country before, so I ap-

preciate it as a new experience and the team was great to work with," she said. Eleonora says her experience in America has opened her mind "in a way that I didn't expect." She feels her way of approaching people has changed, and now feels more open to talk to people she doesn't know. She says the experience is something she would recommend to American students to try to visit another country.

Eleonora heads back to Italy June 15, a few days after graduation. She said what she'd miss most about Phoenixville is

"The school environment, as I've enjoyed the atmosphere here." While this isn't her last year of high school, Lele says it will still be "a great moment as it will be the end of my time here." She hopes she will get the chance to be with the seniors during graduation. While Eleonora looks forward to coming home and seeing her friends and family, she also will miss Phoenixville and the memories she has made here.



**Eleonora practicing horse riding at Bryn Taran Farm**  
Photos courtesy of Eleonora Oliveri



**Eleonora with her host family, the Beltrons, doing a group photo**

## Alex Seaman: Future PAHS leading man



**Written by:**  
Audrey Smith

At PAHS, freshmen are often overlooked as irritating and don't get their chance to shine in their extracurricular strengths until later years. However, Alex Seaman isn't your average freshman. He is a self-driven and competent performer who is already making a mark at Phoenixville, particularly on stage.

Alex's passion for theatre began in sixth grade, when he auditioned for the PAMS production of "Shrek the Musical" and landed the role of Pinocchio. Upon hear-

ing the news, he watched the professional recording of the Broadway production on Netflix and fell in love with the idea of expression through performing. His appreciation for music, however, began at a young age from his music-centered family.

Since then, he has performed in countless theatre summer camps and school productions. He appeared in several spring musicals and fall plays at the middle school, and will be making his debut on the high school stage in this year's production of "Bye Bye Birdie." Outside of school, Alex has participated in shows at Firebird Theatre in Phoenixville, as well as Stagedoor Manor, a three-week long sleep away theatre camp in Catskills, New York.

Throughout his various experiences on stage, his main highlights have been portraying the Genie in the 2019 PAMS production of "Aladdin Jr." and the Earthworm in "James and the Giant Peach Jr." the previous year. This past summer, he appeared as Asaka in "Once on this Island" at Firebird Theatre, his favorite role to date.

From his first experiences on stage, theatre has stuck with Alex and became a main focus and influence on his life. He stated, "I love the art of theatre because it brings people together and I've met some of my best friends for life through it."

Continuing his broad theatre resume, Alex will be performing as "Karl," a teenager and one of Hugo's friends, in this year's spring musical: "Bye Bye Birdie." When dis-

cussing the show, he stated "I'm having so much fun at rehearsals so far and I'm excited to perform in my first show in high school with some of my best friends." His favorite part of the show is "Telephone Hour," a catchy, upbeat song involving all the teenagers that the audience will be sure to love.

Outside of performing, Alex comes from a family of four, consisting of his parents, his older brother Max (a 2017 PAHS graduate) and his two cats, Helga and Fifi.

Focusing on academics, Alex enjoys Chemistry and English, but over everything else, Concert Choir with Mrs. Nice is his favorite class. Since he is only a freshman, Alex is looking forward to future years where he can customize his schedule to his personal interests.

Alex is also a member of MiniThon, Key Club, Letter by Letter, and has been playing the cello in orchestra since third grade, which he plans to continue through his whole high school career.

This January, Alex took a first place win in the poetry slam out of all freshman English classes. When first given the assignment in class, he had no intention of making it to the finals, but ended up having a ton of fun competing in the slam with a poem titled "Better to Die" by Florence Earle Coates.

He explained, "The people that were in the top three with me, our poems were very different so I'm sure it was hard to choose a winner." He is grateful for this exciting experience and is looking forward to attending all the slams throughout high school as a judge.

With three and a half more years of



**Alex, off stage, enjoying a nice day.**  
Photos courtesy of Alex Seaman

high school to come, Alex Seaman is focused on being his best one hundred percent of the time, even if that doesn't mean grade-wise. He expressed, "I want to always be my best, and that doesn't mean I have to be a perfect student. I want to be a role model for other people because when I was in middle school and even now, I look up to people and I want people to be able to look up to me and rely on me in that way."

In his future, Alex sees himself pursuing theatre, whether it be performing or a technical, behind the scenes aspect. He is also interested in business, especially for cosmetology, if he doesn't go the theatre route.

It is clear that Alex's confident and uplifting disposition, as well as his enthusiasm for the performing arts, will bring him nothing less than success, whether on or off stage.



**Alex strutting his stuff on stage in "James and the Giant Peach."**



# Alumni updates

Each month, The Purple Press highlights PAHS students of the present... but how about students of the past? This month, we wanted to acknowledge a few of our wonderful Phoenixville alumni. When students graduate, each sets off on their own unique path. We wanted to show you what they've been up to since graduation, and what they remember most from their high school experience. You may find that some of our alumni are still right here in the building.



**Written by:**  
Jocelyn Visnov

**Ben Paris ('06)**

Ben has a Bachelor of Science in Communications at Kutztown University, and a Masters of Education from Cabrini University. Ben has recently been seen substitute teaching at PAHS.

He is currently training for a black belt in jujitsu and super fights. Best memories from High School: "Working with the TV Studio."

**Alyssa McNeil ('05)**

Alyssa went to Temple University for Graduate and Undergraduate studies. Currently a stay at home mom, Alyssa hopes to pursue a PhD program for Clinical Psychology.

**Ella Gustine ('18)**

Ella is currently a sophomore at Temple University. She originally set out for a career in Physical Therapy, but switched her major twice, and is now very excited to be majoring in Geology. Ella plans to

thon.

"My favorite memory from high school was watching two of my classmates be crowned prom king and king during my senior year. This was special because it was so unique and awesome of our class to see two boys be voted into prom royalty."

**Ryan Curley ('01)**

Mr. Curley received an English degree from Ursinus College. He completed a teaching certificate and MA in English from West Chester University, and received an MA in teaching from Holy Family University. He spent a year teaching at Perkiomen Valley High School before getting hired full time here at Phoenixville. Mr. Curley currently teaches 11th and 12th grade English, previously coached Boys' and Girls' Tennis, has been the advisor for the Academic Team, Gazebo Literary Magazine, and a member of the Global Citizens Club. He currently has a young family; a one-year-old boy who loves to play with cars, and a nine-year-old daughter who refuses to read "Harry Potter."

Mr. Curley is always looking for the best ways to share his love of literature with students, and wants to make reading cool. He would like to play tennis again, and work on some writing of his own. Memories from high school: "Mr. Zittel doing his Ethel Merman impression in 9th grade. Mr. Weinstein throwing around the scalene fish in 10th grade Geometry. In 11th grade, traveling to Spain with my Spanish class; a whirlwind, non-stop, 3-day tour of Madrid which inspired me to return to Europe. Winning Team Districts my senior year with the tennis team (I played a lot of tennis). In 9th grade, listening to Mr. Coyne tell stories about the Russian Empire. Taking the "Dance" elective in gym class with Ms. Foresta (why couldn't we just play dodgeball?!). The school was undergoing a renovation, so we had no tiles on the floors or ceilings (but it was all good). Attending the first FOCUS at the Phoenixville YMCA. Getting kicked out of a park, by police, for trying to shoot a 'Macbeth' video after dusk. 'Out damn kids, out I say!'"

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**Meghan O'Neill ('19)**

Meghan is currently attending American University and made the Dean's list her first semester. She writes for several on-campus publications, and was recently invited to apply for a Fulbright Scholarship, and is excited to pursue this opportunity. "My best memory from high school was definitely the Danish exchange trip during my junior year. I made amazing friends and I'm actually going to visit my friend in Denmark this summer!"

**Alan Hughes ('84)**

Mr. Hughes went to West



**Ryan Curley**, a graduate of the class of 2001, was a proud member of the Boys' tennis team. He has since returned to Phoenixville to teach English, and has periodically coached both the Boys' and Girls' Tennis teams. Photo courtesy of Mr. Curley

Chester University and received a BS in Management. He graduated from Cabrini with a Math and Secondary Education Certification, and went to Villanova University, received an MA in Mathematics, and is currently teaching calculus and other math courses at PAHS. Mr. Hughes wants to be the best person he can be. "Two of my best friends today I met in 9th grade here at Phoenixville. We're still best friends today. One is Mr. Smiley."

**Kennedy Feindt ('18)**

Currently a sophomore at Temple University, Kennedy chose to study Journalism because she enjoys writing and wanted to major in something that would give her varied career options. She's also minoring in Criminal Justice. "My most memorable moments from high school include attending classes with all my close friends and celebrating events like prom and Homecoming. Also winning powderpuff two years in a row :)"

**Cameron Johns ('17)**

Currently a junior at Seton Hall University, studying International Relations, and minoring in Economics and Spanish. She made the Dean's List for academic achievement, and holds a leadership position in her sorority. Cameron is working towards graduating with honors. "My two fondest memories include girls' basketball Senior Night as well as the chaotically hilarious bomb threat that eventually became a school-wide meme."

**Scott Smiley ('84)**

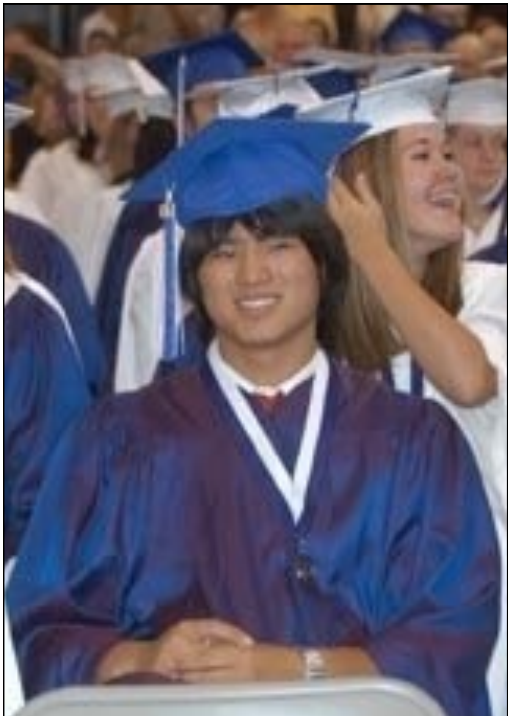
Mr. Smiley has a BS from Ursinus College, and MS from West Chester University. He has been a teacher and coach for more than 25 years. He is married and has three kids, all of which are either in college or have already graduated. Mr. Smiley has run the Broad Street Run (x8), and the Philadelphia Marathon. He is working for the best educational experience for all students. Memories from high school: "Upset Henderson (3rd in state) in football after taking SATs. Played baseball with Mike Piazza (I caught, he played first base)."

**Lily Groves ('17)**

Lily is a Junior at Hofstra University, currently participating in the Disney College Program. She wants to enter the field of Public Relations, hopefully working in New York City. Best memories from high school: "Hanging out with friends in and outside of school."

**Laurie Frost ('96)**

Mrs. Frost received her Bachelor's Degree from King's College, and her Masters Degree from West Chester University. She currently teaches Algebra 2 Honors, and Algebra 1 here at PAHS. She met her husband, Lance, in high school and has two children, both boys. She bought her childhood house from her parents and currently lives there with her family.



**Ben Parris** is all smiles at his graduation in 2006. Photo courtesy of Ben Parris

study abroad next semester, hopefully in Rome. "For me, the most memorable moments from high school are junior and senior Homecoming week. Participating in Powderpuff and getting ready for the dance with my friends was always so much fun."

**Noah Bloom ('19)**

Noah is studying Musical Theater at New York University, working towards becoming a well-rounded actor, able to perform both on stage and on camera. "My best memories from high school would have to be my experiences performing in the spring musicals. I also loved cheerleading for senior powderpuff. We killed it."

**Emma Visnov ('18)**

Emma is a Public Health major at Temple University, exploring career options in both public health and health psychology. She is interested in interning with Planned Parenthood this summer and participates in the Ski Club and Running Club. Emma currently lives with PAHS alumni Kennedy Feindt and Ella Gustine, and recently completed the Philadelphia Half Mara-



Phoenixville Alumni **Kennedy Feindt**, **Ella Gustine**, and **Emma Visnov**. All members of the class of 2018, these three are currently roommates living just off campus at Temple University. Photo courtesy of Janine Taglang.



# California Nightmare hits Phoenixville



**Written by:**  
Ariana Ortlip

It's 1964, in a small town in California. Everything happens in or around a small diner called 'California Dreamin'. An eccentric group of characters all show up to eat at this diner. Before long, someone is murdered and everyone scrambles to figure out who did it before someone else dies. Thus began the 2020 PAHS Murder Mystery play called "California Nightmare," written and directed by senior Morgan Bieler.

The plot of the play revolved around Kenneth James (Jack Kramer), a private investigator wanting to be recognized as something other than worthless and no good. So, he planned on pinning the murders on Eddie, the military officer (Jonathan Heiles), because he was a town favorite and could never do anything wrong. This made Kenneth very jealous which led him to kill eight people so he could be crowned town hero for once in



The whole cast and crew of the murder mystery "California Nightmare"

his life

Morgan Bieler, a senior here at PAHS, has been a part of the production of the murder mysteries since her sophomore year, this being the first year that she wrote and helped direct it. Bieler came up with the setting for the murder mystery by modeling it after the theme of a

50's diner. She started writing the play in September and by November there was a finished product. Bieler wrote the whole play herself, but with the production she had

help from senior Charis Singletary who is the secretary and treasurer of the Theatre Guild. Singletary also did all the costuming and props and she had several student helpers as well. Bieler and senior Sophie Sullivan directed the show together.

One of the hardest parts of making this whole production come together for Bieler was casting the roles. Bieler, Sullivan, and Mr. and Mrs. Tavano were looking for people to play certain parts. For instance, they wanted someone

who could act nervous to play the waitress, and someone who could act very full of herself to be the actress. She said, "I didn't consciously model characters after people I know. But unconsciously there are a lot of similarities between the characters and people in my life."

Directing everyone was also challenging because, as Bieler said, "They are our friends and we see them every day so having to direct your peers and tell them what to do is a very stressful situation."

Another interesting aspect of the show centered on music, especially a jukebox that would play every time a character died. Bieler said, "I put a lot of time and consideration into the songs that would play during the characters' deaths. I wanted the songs to fit the time period, obviously, and reflect the character's personality in some way."

The writing, acting and music entertained the audiences throughout the whole performance and they were intrigued to find out who the murderer actually was. Overall, at the end of the night, as Bieler said, "It was a really nice turnout and everyone did a really great job".



Kenneth (Jack Kramer) telling Eddie (Johnathan Heiles) the reasons behind his killing spree.  
Photos courtesy of Mr. Lantzy



Charis Singletary, Morgan Bieler, and Sophie Sullivan naming the winner of who guessed the murderer correctly.

## Australia is STILL on fire



**Written by:**  
Savanna Muller

Imagine yourself losing everything, including a town you loved and grew up in, due to a horrific natural disaster. You have no home to return to, are displaced from all of your friends and school, without even a change of clothes. Thousands of people had to go through this throughout Australia due to their wildfires. Not only is it an issue for Australians, but also for the thousands of animals losing their habitats.

Since September, at least 27 million acres of Australia have burned in one of the country's worst fire seasons on record. That's an area larger than Portugal, and more than 14 times the area that burned in California in 2018, the state's most destructive year for wildfires. According to CNN, the fires have now

killed at least 29 people and destroyed some 2,500 homes.

There have been fires in every Australian state with New South Wales being hit the hardest. Blazes have torn through bushland, wooded areas, and national parks like the Blue Mountains. Some of Australia's largest cities have also been affected, including Melbourne and Sydney, where fires have damaged homes in the outer suburbs and thick plumes of smoke have blanketed the urban center. Earlier in December, the smoke was so bad in Sydney that air quality measured 11 times the "hazardous" level.

Both natural causes and humans are to blame. Dry lightning, a natural cause, was responsible for starting a number of fires in Victoria's East Gippsland region in late December, which then traveled more than 12.4 miles in just five hours, according to state agency Victoria Emergency. On the other hand, New South Wales police have charged at least 24 people with deliberately starting bushfires, and have taken legal action against 183 people



Wildlife rescuer holding a koala he helped out of a burning forest in Kangaroo Island.  
Photo: USAtoday.com

for fire-related offenses since November, according to a police statement.

State and federal authorities have been working to combat the fire crisis for months. Early in January, Victoria declared a state of disaster and NSW declared a state of emergency. The state of Queensland also briefly declared a state of emergency in November. There are more than 2,000 firefighters working on the ground in NSW alone, and the US, Canada, and New Zealand have sent additional firefighters to help. The number of active fires has dropped slightly because of help from the rain, but Australia is still in need of lots of help from supporting countries to make these fires end.

Obviously the animals also had a great tragedy as they watched their habitats burn to nothing along with their other furry friends. USA Today states that ex-

perts estimated that almost 1.25 billion animals have died or been harshly affected by these fires. These animals include kangaroos, koalas, wallabies, wombats, and many bird species.

Although on record this is not the worst bushfire Australia has experienced, the lives of people and poor animals are at risk in New South Wales and neighboring cities. Australia is in desperate need of our help. The fires are still raging, so people and animals are losing their homes. As smoke rises, everything they spent their lives building and grew up with has turned to ash. If you were in their shoes you would need somebody to stand up and help you and loved ones out. This is your opportunity to step up and help the struggling lands, people, and animals of Australia. If you'd like to personally donate, you can at [www.redcross.org.au](http://www.redcross.org.au) to help out the victims.



Australia bushfire burning all of its nature to the ground.  
Photo: Phys.org



## Wellness Day 2020: Recharge, reset, refocus

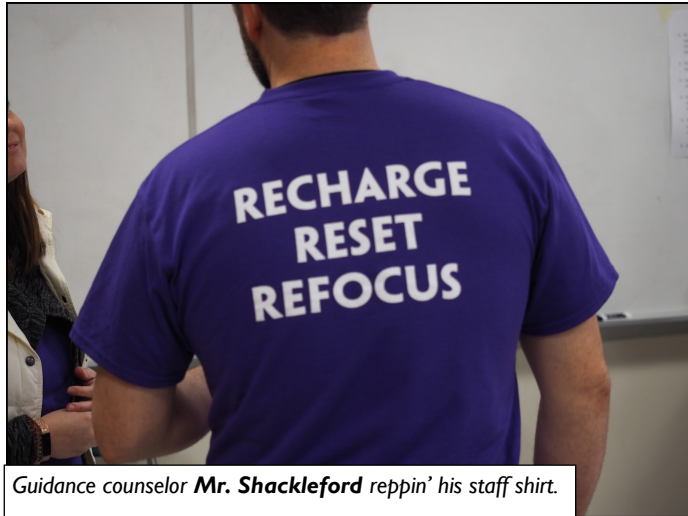


**Written by:**  
Violet Noecker

Despite the negative connotation surrounding mental health, Phoenixville

Area High School put together a very positive day to help students who struggle with mental illness. Winter Wellness Day took place on Wednesday, January 22, 2020 and was a full school day dedicated completely to mental health awareness, providing students with coping skills, and having a little fun.

Winter Wellness Day started off in the middle school auditorium with senior Brendan Vitz, junior Josh Starczewski and junior Violet Noecker who gave moving speeches relating to their own experiences with mental health. After this, an informative presentation called "Minding Your Mind" was shown to students. Then came motivational guest speaker Ron James who spoke of his rough past full of



Guidance counselor **Mr. Shackleford** reppin' his staff shirt.

drug use, jail time, and hopeful future that left him with so much more than what he started with.

Students were then brought back to the high school, where several stress-relieving activities awaited them. Activities included slime making, a spa day, zumba, cooking, aromatherapy, open gym, video

game trucks, and much more. Many students were excited to play with the dogs that were used for animal therapy.

According to sophomore David Harper, his favorite part of Winter Wellness Day was Ron

James, the motivational speaker. Many students loved the dogs that visited, and junior Savanna Muller said she "liked painting her nails with Frau Tavani."

At the spa day, junior Andrea Hook said she "really liked the meditation and the whole day in general."

Most students who chose to attend Winter Wellness day had a great time, and those who didn't attend missed out on an educational day that was also a lot of fun.

Sophomore Leo Serini said that "Kids are always going to dunk on what schools do, even if it is well intentioned" which shows that those who were unappreciative of the school's effort to raise awareness for mental health are not a surprise to faculty and other students.

2018 Phoenixville graduate Miles Noecker, "enjoyed the student speakers and how the staff and teachers presented the students with so many options." There were many

activities for students to choose from prior to Wellness Day, and even an ice cream sundae bar at lunches.

Some students, including sophomore Keith Jacoby, were very fond of having lunch with their entire grade, while others loved the ice cream bar. Students like juniors Max McMinn and Ariana Ortlip were most pleased with the zumba portion of their day.

Overall, Winter Wellness Day was a great way for faculty to show their concern for students' mental health, and to educate students and teachers on the topic. According to junior Lindsey Turunen, Wellness Day was "very creative and a smart idea."

Wellness Day was a day dedicated to students and their mental health, put together by staff and teachers to show students that they are cared for, and that they are not alone. Dr. Parkinson said, "Factors that play into a student being successful depends on their mental and physical health," and described Wellness Day as a great success.



Speaker **Ron James** and PAHS faculty come together on stage show their support for students.

Photos: Lorraine Kelly



Two cute therapy dogs getting attention on Wellness Day.

## Phoenixville beyond borders



**Written by:**  
Bella Cruz

From theatre guild to model UN to varsity club and to film club, there

seems to be a club for almost everything here at PAHS. While each of the extensive 50+ clubs have their individual goals and purposes, all of them add to the culture here at PAHS. However, certain clubs are running programs to benefit people beyond Phoenixville, and even beyond the United States. Spanish Honor Society, Letter by Letter, and the French Honor Society are just a few of the clubs that are making a difference in the world.

### **Letter by Letter**

Letter by Letter is a club that has partnered with LLIAM ministry in Kampala, Uganda. Club members have sent letters to children at the orphanage and are al-

ways creating various fundraisers that will send money to the orphanage. President of the club, senior Emma Brown, said, "Our club is all about connections and having a better sense of the world, as opposed to just our small community."

One of the main issues Letter by Letter is trying to help with is affordable education within the orphanage. The kids need sponsors to afford books and supplies. Several of the younger kids will get sponsors, leaving the older kids without any support for their education. Through fundraisers such as an annual 5K run and Sunrise Breakfast, Letter by Letter works to provide this money for the older kids.

Writing the letters also broadens perspectives and exposes students to a different side of global communications. As Brown said, "Even though they live 7,000 miles away, we are still able to have this connection with them." Because of Letter by Letter, Phoenixville's impact is expanding past the local community and into the LLIAM orphanage in Uganda.

### **Spanish Honor Society**

The Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica aims to help the Spanish speaking community in Phoenixville, as well as in other countries. In the past, the society participated in the Pulsera Project. By partnering with this non-profit organization and selling "pulseras," or bracelets, the club was able to donate the money to support artists in Central America. The money will help to support educational programs, scholarships, worker's rights, housing, and overall community development. Last year, Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica donated 865 dollars to the project.

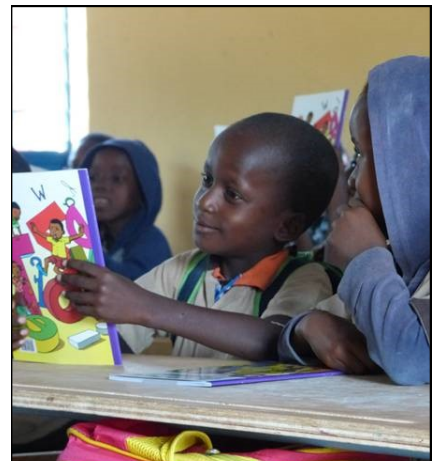
Currently, the society is collecting school supplies and snacks for Project Libertad. Supplies dropped off in the collection boxes will be provided to at-risk immigrant youth within the underserved areas of Phoenixville. Any money donated will help provide resources, advocacy, and leadership opportunities within Phoenixville.

As Spanish and French teacher, Mrs. Knaster, said, "It is so important to lend a helping hand to those in need. It is a great way to show support for those in our community and worldwide."

### **French Honor Society**

Each year, the Société Honoraire de Français de Phoenixville takes part in a major service project. This year, the Society is working with a doctor from the World Association of Medical Editors to provide books for a school in need in Kafountine. Oftentimes, the teachers do not have enough books for all of the students and are in need of more. Members have begun a "Change for Change" campaign, asking people to donate spare change for the cause.

French teacher Mrs. Gasbara said, "This fundraiser will help us make a difference in the children's lives. It promotes educa-



A child in a Senegal classroom enjoying his new books.

Photo courtesy of Dr. Levine, an American doctor living in Senegal

tion and international friendship with a francophone country."

However, "Change for Change" is just one of the many service projects where the Société Honoraire de Français de Phoenixville has helped people outside of our borders. Last year, they sold soup kits and donated the money to an organization called "Shoes that grow," which provided durable shoes for families who could not afford new ones. Another year, the French Club made chocolate truffles to be sold and the money was donated to Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders).

As for the future, the Society will continue to reach out to the community and find new organizations where they can make a difference.

In their own way, each club here at Phoenixville leaves a lasting impression. However, we can see that their impact reaches beyond Phoenixville, and sometimes even beyond the United States.



Poster for Spanish Honor Society's "Pulsera Project"  
Photo courtesy of Mrs. Knaster



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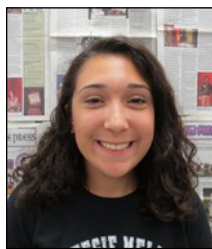
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## The class to stop the end of the world: Environmental Science



**Written by:**

Isabelle Butera

"When am I ever going to use this in real life!" Whether

you've heard it or said it, all students are aware of the frustration of taking a class that is not personally relevant or interesting. Although classes like U.S. History and Calculus may be important to know, they don't usually apply to the everyday life of a teenager, or for that matter, most adults. But there is one class that is becoming ever more important as our planet faces a crisis worse than ever before, and that class is AP Environmental Science.

AP Environmental is an elective science class taught by Mr. Phipps. In his words, "Environmental Science is like an instruction manual for the Earth. It teaches you all the things you SHOULD know about

how Earth works before being allowed to live here." It is available for any sophomores, juniors and seniors with above of B in honors science, or an A in ACP.

Due to the nature of environmental science, the class spans multiple disciplines. It elaborates on numerous concepts from biology, chemistry, earth science and math. Aside from the STEM topics, the class also includes discussions about economics, human development, politics, and history.

During the year, students will learn about how human activities impact the planet. They will explore the characteristics of different biomes and species, and how they are forced to change due to human development. Students will examine how a growing human population puts strain on a dwindling supply on nonrenewable resources and energy.

One of the most interesting units for me was the one I thought would be the most boring: soil. To my surprise, learning about how we



Students attending a field trip to the Valley Forge Sewage Treatment Plant  
Photos courtesy of Mr. Phipps

grow food in this country was incredibly enlightening.

With two lab days a cycle, you can expect to participate in many interesting hands-on experiences. Some of my favorites included building an aquarium, testing for water and air pollution, and growing an organic garden in the courtyard. The class also includes two field trips, one to a wildlife sanctuary and one to a landfill and sewage treatment facility. Surely, the class involves getting your hands dirty, but it results in a deeper understanding of how our planet works.

Not only did I personally enjoy AP Environmental more than I expected, but it has altered my world view drastically. I started the class thinking I was knowledgeable about the environment and passionate about a greener future, but I finished the class with a whole new understanding and motivation to fight for a world we can live in. I consider what I've learned every

time I eat, shop, travel, and once I'm old enough, vote.

While some classes may relate to your specific path of study or work, environmental science is a relevant class for every single highschooler, since, to put it plainly, we all live on Earth.

As Mr. Phipps explained, "Everything you see and learn can be applied to the 'real world' in everyday choices... The future of the earth is in our hands and these small choices can make a difference between a livable planet for your kids shared with millions of species, or a wasteland of plastic and flooded cities, silent and bereft of life."

With ocean levels rising, continents on fire and governments in complete denial, this class may be the most important subject for any highschool student. Unfortunately, the burden falls on our generation to fix the crisis of climate change, and the solution is nowhere near as simple as eliminating plastic straws.



The Environmental Club provides opportunities for students to learn about environmental science outside of the classroom, including a day at Black Rock Park..

## Paper straws vs. plastic: A small part of a big picture



**Written by:**

Audrey Smith

If you've been to restaurants or coffee shops lately, you may have noticed

a decrease in the use of plastic straws, and a new rise of paper straw popularity. Most commonly, Starbucks and Walt Disney World have both announced that they have eliminated all plastic straw usage by offering more eco-friendly single use products, such as paper straws and recyclable plastic. This claim raises the question among many of their customers: does replacing plastic straws with paper make any noticeable difference in our environment?

Though putting an end to plastic straws is a good way to start, I question how much damage is still being done when companies provide giant plastic or styrofoam cups to customers. Using cups made out of such materials produces an even larger amount of litter than straws do. Many companies' reasoning for the switch is because straws are an easy item to replace and will decrease the amount of litter causing pollution.

One of the main questions I have about paper straws is how does the production, including the plastics used, affect our environment? According to the manufacturing company H. B. Fueller, paper straws are made from three sheets of paper bound together using an adhesive mainly made of water. The fact that water and paper are renewable sources supports the argument that paper straws are better environmentally. However, the production of these straws emits



Only a fraction of the plastic items found destroying our beautiful environment.  
Photo: Change.org

four times as many greenhouse gases than plastic straw production does, says get-green-now.com. If America were solar or wind powered, there would be less of an issue regarding production. In the long run, the pollution from paper could end up being just as bad as plastic litter.

The spark of paper straw usage is a result of plastic straws not being biodegradable and filling up landfills, causing a great deal of pollution. Paper straws have the ability to be compostable, which is a big step forward for reducing the amount of trash going into landfills. However, most restaurants or coffee shops do not compost. While their intent is good, in reality, paper straws are going to end up in the same place as plastic: in landfills. Landfills emit toxins and greenhouse

gases, causing global warming, and they cover our beautiful green world with piles of trash. Furthermore, most recycling companies do not accept food-contaminated products, and since paper straws absorb liquid, they aren't able to be recycled.

Overall, I think that to make a step in the right direction for our environment, eliminating more plastic than just straws is the best way to help. Switching from plastic to paper straws is an easy switch, but is just a start. Eliminating the use of large plastic cups and replacing them with another material such as cardboard or even reusable plastic would have a bigger effect. But in the end, it is better for biodegradable paper items to be in landfills or the ecosystem than nonrenewable plastic.

Another idea is using less plastic sandwich bags, and replacing them with reusable containers or cloth ones instead. More paper or reusable bags should be used at grocery stores because, from working at a grocery store myself, I have witnessed how many plastic bags are used every day that will most likely not be recycled.

In the end, we may not know what choices will positively affect us in the future, but I support the opportunity to try to save the environment. Whatever it takes to make the smallest step forward for our world is a step in the right direction. Even if paper straws may not save the world, it is a big attempt to help reduce the insane amount of non-biodegradable waste on our planet.



A sea turtle is found eating littered plastic it has mistaken for food.  
Photo: Bearmarketreview.wordpress.com



## Entrepreneurship: Why it belongs in your schedule



**Written by:**  
Michelle Richter

As every February rolls around, most students are left with the same burdening question: what classes should I take next year? With a seemingly never-ending list of interesting courses, choosing electives can be an overwhelming process. Entrepreneurship is one on the list that will be sure to teach you about the components of running a business while allowing time to relax and have fun. Reflecting on my junior year, this class quickly became one of my favorite electives, as I learned useful information that I knew would help me in the future.

So what should you expect in Entrepreneurship class? This class, taught by Ms. Goodwin, will show you what it takes to run a successful business, on an every other day schedule. Over the school year, students rotate between four differ-

ent sections: management, marketing, operations and accounting.

Management teaches the skills necessary to lead and schedule employees, while managing the day-to-day operations of a business. Marketing exemplifies how to successfully advertise a business through both physical and social media platforms to attract customers. In operations, the focus is drawn to inventory and making sure items are not only accounted for, but displayed in a pleasing and attractive way. In accounting, financial statements are inspected and edited so students understand the basics of financial management, including profits and losses. Throughout all four of these divisions, real-world based assignments are completed (independently or with partners) as well as projects that will give a deeper understanding of what a successful business requires.

While some assignments, such as analyzing financial records, will be done inside the classroom, this course will also assure that real experience in a business is obtained. In the beginning of the school year, all students enrolled in the course

will be 'trained' to work at the Phantom Station, the high school's school store. The rotating sections apply their learned skills to the store to make sure it runs smoothly, while pairs of students work 'shifts' at the school store (during their class period) whenever they choose. Simultaneously working in the store and on task-based assignments teaches students about the responsibilities and multi-tasking involved in a business.

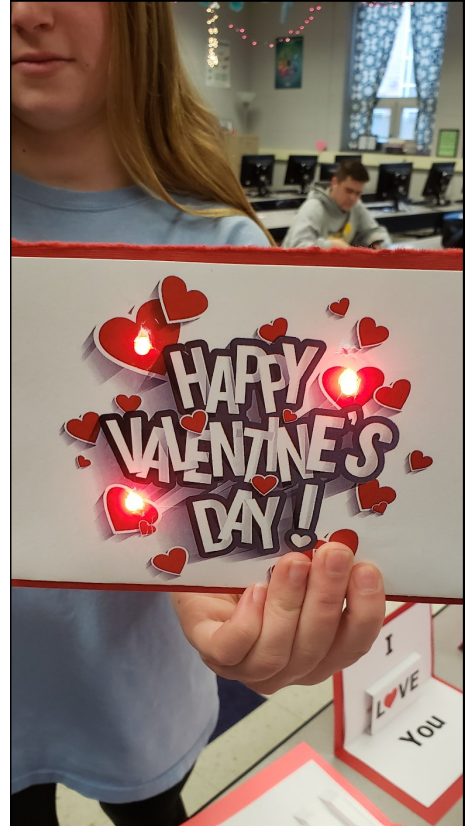
After each group of students has rotated through all four sections, they create a full business plan for their own made-up company. Creativity comes into play for this assignment, as students come up with a unique business idea and write up a full business plan, putting together all of the knowledge they previously learned.

Along with learning about business and working in a real-life store, Ms. Goodwin keeps her course interesting by adding new activities each year. This year, she described that 'students have been using STEM skills to create light-up Valentine's Day cards that will

be sold in the Phantom Station from February 3rd to February 12th, and during conferences on February 13th and 14th.' By hand-making these cards and calculating the cost per card, students had a fun way to learn about the basic entrepreneurship skills that go into manufacturing and selling their own products.

Becca Welsh, a senior who is currently taking the course, commented, "This class teaches us valuable information, but in a fun and relaxing way."

While Entrepreneurship will leave you with a broader



Senior **Becca Welsh** holding a Valentine's Day card that she made.

Photos courtesy of Ms. Goodwin



An assortment of light-up Valentine's Day cards made by Entrepreneurship students were sold at the Phantom Station from February 3-12.

knowledge about being a part of a business, it also allows you to work according to your own schedule, be creative, and work outside of the classroom, all while securing an easy A. As a student who has taken this class, I can personally say by the end of your school year, you will be well-informed of the most important elements of a successful business. Not only will this class be an enjoyable part of your day, but it will offer you a chance to begin your journey as an entrepreneur and make it big.

## Dear PAHS students: You are too smart to skip breakfast



**Written by:**  
Mrs. Syx

Did you know that there are an estimated 100,000 chemical reactions occurring per second, 86 billion cells, and over 10,000 types of neurons in your brain? Researchers estimate that information travels at 260 mph within your brain. Is it any surprise that with this much happening in your head, not to mention the rest of your body, that it needs energy?

Every day students come to the nurse's office complaining of headaches, nausea, dizziness, and difficulty focusing. One of the first questions we will ask is if you have eaten breakfast today. This is for many reasons, but the most important being that your brain and body need fuel and these are common symptoms of low blood sugar. Your body is sending you a message that it needs energy, and sometimes those messages come in other

forms besides actually feeling hungry. And yes, you even need fuel to just sit in class.

Students many times reply with answers like "I didn't have time, I woke up late, or I wasn't hungry and never eat breakfast." These answers will be met with raised eyebrows and saltine crackers. (Those excuses do not work in my house and they do not work here.)

According to studies cited by the Washington Post, over 25% of students deem the first meal of the day unnecessary. However, eating breakfast affects students on several levels: physically, emotionally, and academically, so it really is a game-changer. Academically speaking, test scores of students who do not eat breakfast are generally lower than those who eat in the morning. Students who eat breakfast show improved academic performance and possess longer attention



spans. Your body is growing at lightning speed. The foods you eat literally build your body, so you need to make sure to do it right the first time.

According to the CDC, students who do not eat breakfast tend to eat more junk food, which leads to spikes in blood sugar. A spike in blood sugar will inevitably lead to a crash later. A more stable blood sugar means steady energy levels and less crashes and cravings, which can contribute to a stable, healthy weight. In turn, you may be less likely to develop

heart disease and diabetes as well.

Are you moody, irritable, restless? That may not just be because you feel tired or stressed. Eating breakfast may alleviate those symptoms as well. 'Hangry' is a real word and it is an ugly color on anyone. Merriam Webster's dictionary defines hangry as "irritable or angry

because of hunger." It is a legitimate sensation and one that is easy to fix. Even if you don't feel hungry, sometimes a small snack can help. And while we are on the topic, coffee is NOT breakfast. Your teenage brain and body are not capable of muddling through caffeine yet, especially without food.

Listen, you are smart. Too smart to compromise your health by doing something as simple as skipping breakfast. You can easily grab something when you are rushing out the door in the morning like a granola bar, trail mix, or a sandwich. Really, anything is better than nothing. (and almost anything is better than the nurses' office saltines). Even if you are not going to eat it until second or third period, bring something! You could even pack a breakfast the night before or---gasp!---get up 10 minutes earlier and go to bed 30 minutes earlier so you have time in the morning and aren't as tired!

So before you rush out the door without eating and grab that coffee, think: If you have time to grab coffee, you have time to grab something to eat. You are too smart to skip breakfast!





# For our Winter Wellness, can you suggest y



Mr. Acosta - "The weight room."



Semaj Patrick (junior) - "In the girls' locker room."



Tyler Pekofsky (senior) - "Tears of joy in Mrs. Lees' room."



Heather Cirino (junior) - "Lunchroom bathroom, big stall."



Tyler Martin (senior) - "Behind the staircase."



Dante Nattle and D (seniors) - "In Mr. C



Ms. Goodwin - "Under my desk."



Roman Ciavarelli (sophomore) - "The middle stall in the lunchroom bathroom."



Violet Noecker (junior) - "I can't name a place I haven't cried."



# our favorite place to cry in the high school?



Sullivan Nowak (junior) -  
"Chio's room, 4th period."



Liam Martnishn (sophomore) -  
"On the cafeteria floor."



Mrs. Waltz - "In front of my class."



Corylan Crammer  
Coyne's arms."



Dale Kistler (sophomore) -  
"The F wing bathroom."



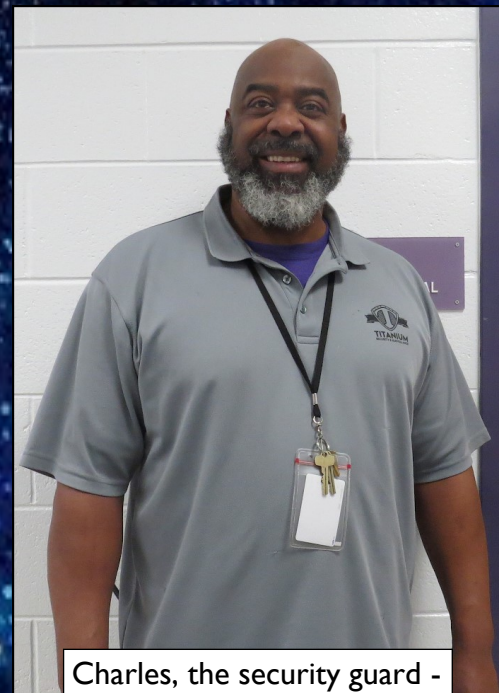
Emma Brown (senior) -  
"Mrs. Cordingley's room."



Brandon Fink (senior) - "On the roof."



Erini Pappas (junior) - "The lunch  
room, because I have no friends."



Charles, the security guard -  
"Gym/ice room hallways."



## I'm watching "You"



**Written by:**

Ashlinn Comiskey

The 2018 Netflix Series "You" is a dark, unsettling drama that has recently become very popular among young adults. With the second season coming out at the end of 2019, the show has become a very binge-worthy program. With a reported 40 million viewers, "You" is one of Netflix's most-viewed series to date. "You" stars "Gossip Girl's" Penn



Beck's boyfriend, Benji (Lou Taylor Pucci), in Joe's glass cage.

Badgley, as Joe Goldberg, the obsessive, dreamy stalker/ serial killer, and Beck played by Elizabeth Lail who had a role on the popular ABC series "Once Upon a Time".

Grade Box:  
Grade: B  
Genre: Drama/ Thriller  
Starring: Penn Badgley  
Network: Netflix

The show is narrated by Joe Goldberg

himself, giving the viewers a look into the mind of a psychopath. Despite his extreme toxicity, the watchers can't help but sympathize with Joe.

"You," Season One, begins when an aspiring poet, Beck, and Joe meet in the bookstore that Joe works at, "Mooney's." After one interaction with Beck, Joe Goldberg tries desperately to find more information about her via the internet, knowing only her first name. Joe soon finds Beck's social media and finds out that she is in a relationship with Benji (Lou Taylor Pucci), a wealthy, arrogant, media mogul.

Beck and Joe begin to spend time together, because one night on the subway while Joe is following Beck (without her knowledge), she falls onto the train tracks, and Joe has an opportunity to heroically save her.

Joe faces many obstacles trying to become closer to Beck. His first obstacle is her deadbeat boyfriend, Benji. He also feels extremely threatened by Beck's best friend, Peach (Shay Mitchell). Peach picks up on Joe's red flags and tries to warn Beck. Both of these characters end up on Joe's kill-list. To avoid spoilers, we won't say what Joe does next, or to whom.

As an adolescent, Joe was an apprentice for Mr. Mooney, the establisher of "Mooney's." Mr Mooney had a glass cage

in the lower level of the store to keep older books in good condition. One day Joe finds Mr. Mooney on the ground and discovers he had a stroke. This event was very painful emotionally for Joe and definitely contributed to some of his psychological trauma. This fore-shadows Joe's future actions. His abandonment and attachment issues also contributed to his psychopathic tendencies. When Beck finds out that Joe is a murderer, she too ends up in danger.

In the second season, Joe moves from New York to Los Angeles, and starts over with a new identity so he can escape his past. However, before long, his old habits come back and lead to some dramatic, unforgettable moments.

"You" is a chilling drama that is extremely addictive and has become one of Netflix's most popular original series among young adults. This show is very suspenseful and most



Joe (Penn Badgley) watching Beck (Elizabeth Lail) in 'Mooney's' book shop.

Photos: Netflix

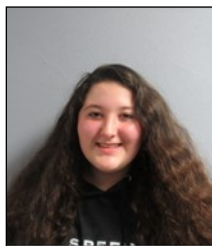
episodes end with a cliffhanger. "You" is also great because of the acting, and how the viewers feel for Joe even after numerous unsettling, not to mention illegal, actions.

Unfortunately, we have to wait for the next installment, as the third season of "You" is expected to be released during the spring of 2021. I personally would recommend "You" for young adults who enjoy thrilling stalking, and a loveable psychopath.



Beck's best friend, Peach (Shay Mitchell), warning Beck about Joe.

## The Masked Singer: Where turtles, llamas, and robots can sing?



**Written by:**

Angeli Genovese

The judges watch eagerly and the crowd goes wild as the singer struts on stage...is that a fox? A taco? A thingamajig? Who is in that costume? "The Masked Singer" is a reality singing competition television show that features A/B-list celebrities that sing their hearts out on stage. However, there's a catch. The celebrities' identities are top-secret and the judges have to guess who is under the mask based on the singer's voice and clues.

The show first aired on January 2, 2019 and has been on for two full seasons. In each episode, to help the audience and the judges with their guesses, before the contestants perform, a short video plays that contains clues. The judges give their commentary after each contestant has sung, and make their guesses on who they believe is under the mask.

The show features celebrity host Nick Cannon, and the judges: stand-up comedian, actor Ken Jeong; actress and model Jenny McCarthy; lead singer of the Pussycat Dolls, Nicole Scherzinger; and singer, songwriter Robin Thicke. The judges are able to keep everyone laughing, especially comedian Ken Jeong, with his bizarre guesses as to who the masked singer may be.

Grade: A-  
Genre: Reality  
Starring: Nick Cannon, Ken Jeong, Jenny McCarthy, Nicole Scherzinger, Robin Thicke  
Network: Fox



Some of the elaborate costumes during Season 2. Photo: Hollywoodreporter.com

In the first season, rapper and songwriter T-Pain played The Monster who took the audience by storm with his enchanting performances and won the golden mask at the end of the season. In the second season, The Fox played by comedian/actor Wayne Brady was a fan favorite, and beat out The Rottweiler who was revealed as singer/songwriter Chris Daughtry. Other famous unmaskings over the season included Raven-Symoné as The Spider, Patti LaBelle as The Flower, and Victor Oladipo as Thingamajig.

The show presents their talented contestants in elaborate costumes made by the four-time Emmy winner Marina Toybina, and the show has been nominated for multiple awards since the show aired, including the Teen Choice Award, as Choice Reality TV Show.

Because of high demand, "The Masked Singer" has come back for a third season which premiered after the Super Bowl on February 2nd at 10:30 pm. The show will continue its normal time schedule of Wednesdays on FOX from 8-9 p.m. ET.

Season 3 boasts an increased number of contestants to 18, they have divided up into three groups of six -- Group A, Group B, and Group C. The groups compete amongst each other until there are only three remaining in each group.

When the field is whittled down to just

nine hopefuls, they will merge into one large group to battle one another. The audience will be getting extra hints from the new "Celebrity Relations" clues which will give the audience

an inside view at the contestants' friends and family. Season 3's contestants have been revealed to be the White Tiger, the Banana, the Mouse, the Robot, Miss Monster, the Kangaroo, the Frog, the Llama, the Astronaut, the Swan, the Kitty, the Turtle, the Rhino, the T-Rex, the Bear, the Elephant, the Night Angel, and finally the Taco.

So far, Groups A and B have performed and shocked the judges with their voices. At this point in the season, the Robot, the Llama, Miss Monster and the Elephant have been revealed, and their identities were truly surprising.

"The Masked Singer" is a great show for anyone looking for a bit of mystery and comedy. The audience may not know all the contestants' identities yet, but it will be a season with the biggest celebrities yet, so make sure to tune into "The Masked Singer" on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. and check out old episodes to see who has already been unmasked.



The Robot's performance on The Masked Singer's season three premiere.

Photo: Heavy.com



Is country music good or bad?



Written by:  
Hayden Perrone

Country: Music with true meaning

Many people like to hate on country music for no reason. They assume that since it's country music, every song is about tractors and beer with some twangy banjo background music. BUT THAT IS FALSE. Country is one of the best genres of music out there and it is about so much more than beer and cowboy boots. It talks about life, love, and living in the moment. Just put

they are able to write and perform fun and upbeat songs, but also know how to pull on your heart strings. If you can't handle the "hardcore" country, then try listening to some artists like Dan and Shay, Sam Hunt, and Florida Georgia Line. These artists are still considered country artists, but their style and songs reflect a more modern and pop beat.

There are too many amazing songs to list here, but there are a few that you must listen to. "Middle of a Memory" by Cole Swindell, "Beautiful Crazy" by Luke Combs, and "From the Ground Up" by Dan and Shay are some of the best songs (I think) ever created. They all have a sweeter and more important meaning behind them than most pop songs, and

will definitely make you stop and think for a minute or two. Oh and by the way, "Old Town Road" is not a country song. Violet, who clearly doesn't know good music when she

hears it, claims that country music is "obnoxious, repetitive, and meaningless." I would choose country music any day over mind-numbing rappers that mumble and spew profanity for three long minutes.

And meaningless? Really? Country music has meaning in every song and it makes you just love life. Stop believing the rumors that country music is about trucks and beer. They may be mentioned in some songs, but that doesn't mean the songs revolve around them.

Put your opinions aside for a minute and listen to a country song, and actually listen to it without complaining. Maybe you'll actually get to see the beauty of it.



If you don't like country music, you can't like Dan and Shay.  
Photo: Billboard.com

your pop-cultured opinions aside for one minute and hear me out.

Country music has so much more meaning to it than what people think. The music is positive and uplifting, and a lot of it is about celebrating life in the United States. Contrary to pop music, which is often about money, drugs, and girls, country music gives people a sense of home and family, and makes people proud to be from the USA.

It is hard to pick the best, but some of my favorite country music artists currently are Luke Bryan, Kane Brown and Cole Swindell. These are my favorites because

Country Music: The worst thing since unsliced bread.

Country music is the worst thing that has ever happened to me. It is simply the most unenjoyable, annoying genre of music to exist. Every country song I have ever heard, other than Lil Nas X's "Old Town Road," has made me want to rip my ears off.

To begin, country music represents what is, in my opinion, the worst parts of the music industry. I'm not saying it is wrong to be proud of your country, or to drink beer all day and hop around in Wrangler jeans, but singing about it all of the time is pretty annoying.

Country music is often overly patriotic, and tends to be about the same topics: heartbreak, beer, boots, horses, and of course, America. Most of these things, generally coming from the South, are very undesirable to me to hear about. I would much rather listen to music with a deeper message, or at least something that sounds good.

I've heard people say, "Country music can be great; you just have to find the

Written by:  
Violet Noecker



right artist." LIES!

Country music sucks, and no artist who uses a banjo will ever be great. Country music can either be bad because it's country, or bad because it's country with a pop twist. Yikes.



Lil Nas X flaunts his blue eyes and bangin' jams.  
Photo: pitchfork.com

Some artists such as Florida Georgia Line \*insert throw up emoji\* blend pop music and country music together to make an appalling sound.

Overall, I believe that country music is obnoxious, repetitive, and meaningless. The depth of country lyrics is a shallow hole filled with nothing but trucks and

beer, which are two things that I genuinely couldn't care less about. One of my least favorite country lyrics is "Don't touch my truck," from the song "My truck" by Breland.

If you are looking for a song that doesn't make you want to sew your ears shut, try listening to a smooth and relaxing Tame Impala song, or a meaningful Twenty One Pilots jam, or even a hype bop from Dababy. And if you insist on bumping country music around me, keep it to "Old Town Road," because that song has a sick beat.



Country music sucks; very true.  
Photo: cafepress.com

Ditch digital and go vinyl



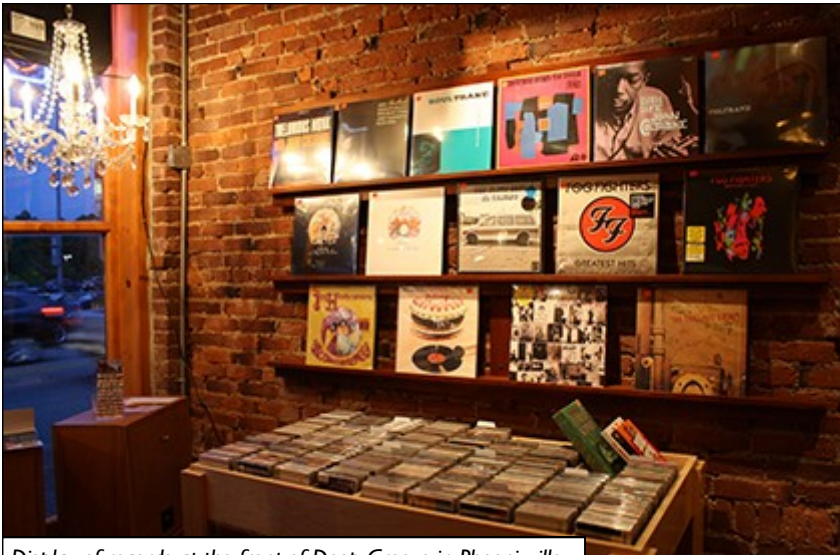
Written by:  
Bella Cruz

Every now and then, after a long period of disappointment in the world, something exceptional reemerges, and restores my faith in humanity. One of the greatest inventions, vinyl records, have the power to do just that. While it may be hard to fathom, there was a time when Apple Music, Spotify, Youtube, Pandora, and even SoundCloud didn't exist. Instead, people would physically go to a record store and sit in an actual room together just to hear the new record they bought.

Today's record players use a conic needle, or stylus, to move through the grooves on a spinning record. The motions of the needle traveling through the grooves are transmitted into vibrations that pulse through the record player. Eventually, these vibrations are transferred into sound, the result being a cohesive song.

Listening to music on a digital forum means you are listening to a compressed version of that audio. With records, the audio is not compressed, so no audio is lost. Records possess minuscule sounds in the background that create a fuller sound. With streaming platforms, you are missing

the robust reverb of a guitar after the strings were initially hit and the resonance of the sound after a piano key has been struck. Occasionally, records will skip or repeat the same portion of a song



Display of records at the front of Deep Groove in Phoenixville.  
Photo: Deepgrooveaudio.com

over and over again, hence the phrase "like a broken record!". Not to worry, you can heal the scratch using a scratch repair kit. Caring for records requires attention to detail. But the time spent with the record makes the experience even more enjoyable.

For decades, vinyl records were also

known for the cover artwork. Just as important as the music was the cover sleeve. Most artists also included a lyric sheet with their own personal touch added. Artists took the time to carefully con-

sider which songs should be placed on the A-side,

versus the B-side. Musicians were very involved in the production process of their music and look. Before the record even touches the turntable, you are enraptured by the artist's euphoric imagination.

Not only that, but listening to vinyl records is a remarkable and memorable

experience. It all starts with the place you buy the record. Records stores, such as Deep Groove in downtown Phoenixville, are decked out from floor to ceiling with old band memorabilia. They place the newest records up front, but the back of a record store is where the treasures are. Here, you can find piles of used records categorized by genre. Oftentimes, they have uncommon records by common artists. After shuffling through a mass amount of records, a feeling of gratification rushes over you as you come across that one record you have to add to your collection. You first open the sleeve and check the record for any scratches or marks. When you take the record home and listen to it, you have the chance to experience something from another generation. Nothing compares to it. Admittedly, it is more work and effort to put a record on. However, that's part of the experience. Streaming music may be easier, but it's less personal.

Vinyl records are a rare representation of something authentic in an almost completely virtual reality. They manage to cut through the digital age with music that defined generations and revolutionized the way we listen to music. Before you stream your new favorite album, try hearing it on vinyl. It might change the way you experience the songs. Listening to vinyl records is something real, something human. Plus, records simply sound better.



## Wrestling: Breaking the 21 year curse



**Written by:**  
Isabella Bland

After years of struggle, the 2020 wrestling team changed the course of Phoenixville wrestling history and produced a winning record for the first time in 21 years. With returning coach of three years, Brandon Clark, assistant coaches Micah Bollinger, Mark Houseal, Nick Vuotto, and addition of Brad Clark, the team found new success with an overall record of 11-7 and 3-2 in the PAC.

This year the team adopted a new approach to the season. Practice times were extended, additional practices were added, and weekend workouts took place when tournaments were not running. This increased dedication on and off the mat sparked huge improvements for each individual wrestler and as a team. The Phantoms saw enormous improvements from last years' matches as the team focused on conditioning, technique, and



Senior **Angelo Franzone** wrestles **Shane Caffrey** from Pottsgrove for a 7-6 win at 152 pounds.

pushing their limits.

Coach Clark commented on the training: "They came together with one goal, and that's to get better every single day. From the least talented guy to the most talented guy, they all pushed each other to get better every day at practice."

Stevenson took note of the hard work he and his team members displayed: "This year was different from previous years. I've never seen the amount of dedication that I've seen this year. We really made the most of our two hour practices."

Starting varsity wrestlers included sophomore Justin Meyers (113 pounds), junior Antonio Valenteen (120), sophomore Mason Koch (126), freshman Jake Geiger (132), sophomore John Volpe (138), junior Ethan Smith (145), senior Angelo Franzone (152), sophomore Owen Koch (160), senior Anthony Stevenson (170), senior David Polanki (182), sophomore Roman Ciavarelli (195), junior Liam McAdam (220), and junior Nolan Martin (285). Thanks to captains Anthony Stevenson, Owen Koch, and Ethan

Smith, the team had a strong group of leaders.

Regarding his captains, Coach Clark said, "They all lead by example, work extremely hard, and make all the right decisions on and off the mat."

When it came to their yearly rivals the Phantoms stepped up with a huge victory over Pottstown by a score of 51-21, but when it came to Great Valley the team lost by one match in a score of 34-38. Some notable

highlights of the season included Koch's second place win in the PAC Championship at 160 lbs, Valenteen's second place at 120lbs., Franzone's third place at 152 lbs, Polanki's third place at 182 lbs, and Stevenson's third place at 170 lbs.

At the Panther Invitational on February 8th Justin Meyers won gold (3-0) in the 113 pound weight class, Franzone (2-1) took second, Stevenson (2-1) took second, and the team placed sixth out of 16 teams, with 82 points.

The Phantoms attended the District One North Tournament held at Pottstown on February 21st and 22nd. Meyers placed fifth, Valenteen placed sixth, Franzone placed fifth, Koch placed fifth, Martin placed sixth, and Stevenson placed fourth which qualified him for Regionals. This year's

brackets were tough and the matches were competitive.

Polanki commented on Districts: "I weighed in at 170 on the dot in the 182 weight class. I knew I was in for a fight. My bracket consisted of wrestlers that I had already wrestled and had intense matches with. The competition this year was unmatched."

Coach Clark said, "Anthony Stevenson wrestled extremely well. All the hard work, the extra workouts he put himself through, and the dedication he showed throughout the season all showed on both Friday night and Saturday. He showed a lot of people that it doesn't matter who's counting you out, it only matters that you believe in yourself."

Stevenson will wrestle at Regionals at Souderton High School on February 28-29th. As for the rest of the team, this year's season is one for the books. The Phantoms showed devotion and determination through their hard work and proved the 21 year curse could be broken. With a rigorous training regiment and many young up and coming wrestlers Coach Clark sees next year's team at the "Top of the Frontier PAC division."



Senior **Anthony Stevenson** celebrates a 3-1 win over CB East's **Jake MacConnell** at 170 pounds.



Senior **David Polanki** pins **Quinn Button** from CB East at 1:00 at 182 pounds.  
Photos: Life Touch

## Speed, strength, and unity... It's the PAHS Swim Team



**Written by:**  
Jocelyn Visnov

Straight from school and into the pool, then out into frigid winter temperatures with a still wet head of hair... This is a daily ritual from December to February for members of the Phoenixville Area High School Swim team. While the 2019-2020 team was smaller in numbers this year than in years past, size was no issue for this host of talented swimmers as the swim team set a plethora of all-time team and personal records, making a splash in Phantom athletics.

This year the team was led by senior captains Ryan Aclan and Katie Baker. Both are skilled swimmers who were enthusiastic about helping the team both in and out of the water.

Boys swim captain, Ryan Aclan, said, "I just really wanted us to have a great time and to make more people want to join the swim team, and I think we did a good

job of that. I had so much fun cheering on our first-time swimmers, while also being amazed at how much our top swimmers are still improving."

Along with cheering on the team, Baker and Aclan helped with set up for meets, and organized social gatherings for team bonding. And of course, they worked alongside Head Coach Weinstein to keep the team motivated and ready for action.

Coach Weinstein, a math teacher here at Phoenixville and passionate swimmer, started coaching the swim team in 2007. Weinstein's love of coaching seems to grow stronger every year, as he continues to spread his love of the sport: "I love every day of the season, trying to figure out what we can do to challenge each other, how we can have fun, seeing improvement..." Coach Weinstein gets excellent help from assistant coaches Mr.



Members of the Girls' Swim team pose at the conference championship meet.  
Photos courtesy of Mr. Weinstein

Gamble, Mrs. Cordingley, and diving coach Mrs. Smith.

This year, the swim team certainly proved their stamina and skill. From spectacular seniors to fearless freshman, nearly every swimmer achieved personal bests or broke team records. The Girls' Medley Relay of juniors Erini Pappas, Sara McCarthy, Penelope Pappas, and Sarah Ritter earned gold for the third year in a row at the PAC Championship meet, winning them an automatic bid in Districts. The Girls' 200 Freestyle relay of Erini and Penelope Pappas, Ritter, and senior Katie Baker won bronze and also qualified for Districts. Erini Pappas earned gold at PACs in the 200 IM and 100m Fly. Penelope Pappas won bronze for backstroke, and McCarthy won bronze for breaststroke, all of which auto qualified for Districts.

The Phantom Boys' team had several highlights as well. The Boys' Medley and Freestyle relay made up of junior George Pappas, sophomore Paul Florio, junior Ryan Harth, and junior Jack Hussin earned silver and qualified for Districts. Hussin went double bronze in 200 IM and 100m Freestyle, setting an all-time team record in the 200 IM. George Pappas earned silver in 100m Backstroke.

Additionally, as for the diving team, junior Emily Westerfer finished fifth place in the conference, sophomore Leo Edmonds Doberez finished in fifth place, and freshman Joel Smith earned sixth.

The passionate group of coaches, always-smiling team captains, and shining team of swimmers came together as one pack for an incredible season of speed, strength, and unity. In fact, many of them will be swimming at the District Swimming Championship meet on February 27 and 28 at LaSalle University.

Anyone who is interested in joining next year's swim team is encouraged to talk to a coach, or a current swimmer. You might just be diving into your favorite adventure yet.



Members of the Boys' Swim team are all smiles at the conference championship meet.



## Boys' Basketball: Ballin' into the postseason



**Written by:**  
Chloe Johns

Young, gritty, and determined are three words that describe this year's Phoenixville Boys' Basketball team. The team is coached by Eric Burnett (sixth season), as well as assistant coaches Erik Rutchauskas, Marquese Richardson and Chris Dunleavy. The boys finished with a record of 14-11 overall, 9-7 in the PAC, and 8-2 in the Frontier Division.

This year's starters included Mike Memmo (junior), Chris Weiah (sophomore), and captains Will Allain (junior), Steven Hamilton (senior), and Clay Kopko (senior). The captains led the team on and off the court, both with their hustle during actual games, and by formu-

lating team bonding activities. They helped to make the team feel like family, which definitely translated to better play on the court. Seniors Troy Olsen and Zion Hopkins-Quinn also played a leadership role. Hamilton and Memmo both achieved First Team All-Division honors.

As for his expectations for this year's team, Coach Burnett said, "My expectations this year were to win the PAC Frontier Division and advance in the PAC playoffs to compete for a championship."

Those goals were not achieved, but not due to lack of effort. The boys worked extremely hard all season, but their quest for a title ended after losing to Methacton in the PAC semi-finals, 69-41. The Phantoms went on to compete against Strath Haven in the district 1-5A playoffs where they were defeated 45-40, thus bringing their season to a close.

Having lost five seniors to graduation this past season, the team knew that they would be coming in with a lot of young

guys with minimal varsity experience. Also, many of the teams in the division still had a majority of their starters, making each matchup tough.

Like all teams, the Phantoms had their strengths as well as their weaknesses. "Our strengths were definitely our team chemistry and balanced scoring. We did not necessarily have one outstanding scorer who dominated by scoring points. Instead, we had many guys who contributed," said Coach Burnett. This combination helped to build a very team-oriented environment.

As for their weaknesses, he stated, "We lost a couple

games early on that we approached timidly or nervous against teams who seemed 'superior' based on their record or returners."

In round one of this year's PAC playoffs the Phantoms upset Boyertown 45-41 in a nail-biter game that they were predicted to lose. However, in the semi-finals the

boys faced the Methacton Warriors, an extremely talented team. The team ended up losing the game, as Methacton's talent and experience proved to be too much to overcome. The Warriors went on to win the PAC Championship for the third year in a row, defeating Phoenixville's rival Pope John Paul.

Senior captain Steven Hamilton said, "Our biggest achievement this year was winning a PAC playoff game. It was Coach Burnett's first playoff win. It meant a lot because we weren't projected to make it that far because we were so young."

This year's boys' basketball team was extremely close. "I'll miss the relationships we had. We were brothers on and off the court, had each other's back, argued like siblings, and enjoyed each other's company. This year was different than years before because JV and Varsity



Phoenixville seniors **Zion Hopkins-Quinn, Steven Hamilton, Troy Olsen, and Clay Kopko**, pose before Senior Night.  
Photo courtesy of Coach Burnett



Junior **Will Allain** dribbles past a Spring-Ford defender.  
Photo: Barry Taglieber

## Scoring in transition: Girls' Basketball 2019-2020



**Written by:**  
Max McMinn

Transitioning to a new coach can be a difficult task for a team. From learning new plays to adjusting to a new strategy, many teams take a long period of time to win under a new coach. Not only did the Phantoms start the season with a new coach, but they lost last year's PAC leading scorer in Ameerah Green; yet, under new Head Coach Brian Grashof, the Phantoms came out swinging and put together a spectacular season.

In Grashof's first season as head coach of the Phantoms, the team went 12-10 and 6-4 in the Frontier division this season. The girls finished in third place in the Frontier conference of the PAC but were edged out of Districts as a 17th seed.

Starters for the Lady Phantoms this

season were guards Aubrie Breisblatt (junior), Captain Marlee Brown (senior), Jamie Michaud (freshman), and forwards Nailah Green (junior) and Angelina Williams (junior). Off the bench came senior Captain Atia Hall, junior Allison Tezak and sophomores Gianna Thaxton, Samantha Brown and Rachel Aselton. Assisting Grashof were coaches Kristin Clancey and Tracey Sterling.

Throughout the season, the Phantoms posted blowouts against several Frontier division rivals. From a 58-16 romping against Upper Perk, to a 67-29 rout against Pottstown, and a 57-32 victory at Upper Merion, the girls displayed dominance across the Frontier. The girls even posted non-league blowouts against Chester (58-7), Antietam (68-30) on Senior Night, and even attained a 47-40 victory against Lower Moreland, a 4A playoff team.

Despite a winning record, the Phantoms failed to clinch a spot in the PAC playoffs and Districts this season. "Our biggest weakness would be closing out games in the fourth quarters," said Coach Grashof.

These pivotal fourth quarters played a huge role in games against the upper echelon in the Frontier division. The girls went deep into the fourth against PJP earlier in the season and Pottsgrove, but failed to get the win. In the elimination game against PJP, the Phantoms held a 30-23 lead heading into the fourth quarter. PJP went on a 15-5 run and kept the Phantoms out of the playoffs.

It was a really hard loss," said sophomore Rachel Aselton. "[We feel] a lot of emotions... angry, sad, drained. It was like a slap in the face. PJP and Phoenixville go at it. We aren't the biggest fans of each other, and we were up the whole game until the end of the 4th. To look around on the court and on the bench seeing the clock hit zero as we were down three was absolutely heartbreaking. But no matter what, we are a family and we win together and we lose together. The sisterhood is like no other."

"I can say that we all [will] come out stronger and better and go out for blood next season," said junior Nailah Green. With more experience playing late in games, these fourth quarter failures will only make the team stronger.

An important part of the team's success was developing chemistry. "We had days where we would work together to coach younger girls who were interested in playing basketball and we also would go out to eat after a lot of the games we played," said junior Angelina Williams. "In doing this we learned a lot about each other and became closer as a family."

The girls even held a youth basketball clinic for 3rd-8th grade girls. "[It was] amazing," said Aselton. "Giving back to the younger girls who look up to us was awesome. It was an amazing experience and it was also so fun and exciting to see who we will be playing with next year and the year after that and to see how they played and how much improvement they've had already."

The conclusion of the season marked the final games of seniors Marlee Brown and Atia Hall. "Marlee Brown and Atia



Junior **Angelina Williams** closes out on a PJP shooter.

Hall were great role models and positive influences on our young team," said Grashof. "They worked hard and maintained a smile throughout the season. I could always rely on them to keep our team moving in a positive direction."

Despite the disappointing ending to the season, the future is bright for the Phantoms. Because the team had less seniors than usual, the youth of the team will be a bright spot for the future. Next season they retain the core squad of rising seniors Aubrie Breisblatt, Nailah Green and Angelina Williams. With the development of underclassmen Jamie Michaud, Samantha Brown, and Gianna Thaxton, the Phantoms look to bring intensity on both the offensive and defensive ends.

Despite the early ending to the season, Coach Grashof looks forward to next season: "Thank you to everyone – students, staff, and community for supporting us. We truly appreciated it. The Phoenixville Girls' Basketball team looks forward to playing hard again next year for our community!"



Senior **Marlee Brown** and Junior **Nailah Green** playing lockdown defense against PJP.  
Photos: Barry Taglieber



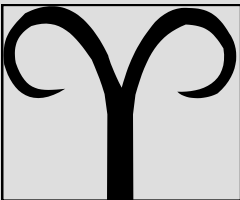
# P HOROSCOPES P

Written by: Ashlinn Comiskey & Angeli Genovese

**ARIES:** (March 21 - April 19)

Good news! Saturn is in your star chart this month, meaning you will have excellent luck! You will meet someone and fall in love instantly. While going for a walk in your neighborhood you find a hundred dollar bill, lucky you! This month, you will pass all of your tests and assignments with flying colors and you will get a raise at your job.

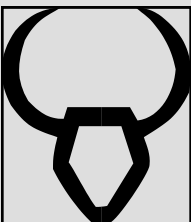
This month: Ask your parents for a new sibling.



**TAURUS:** (April 20 - May 20)

With Jupiter passing through your chart this month, things are not looking great for you. While skateboarding, you slip and fall on a banana peel and break your ankle. Ouch! You then catch the flu from your sibling, and you are sick for almost two weeks. When you are finally better you accidentally leave your left shoe untied and trip and break your other ankle.

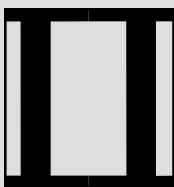
This month: Avoid skateboarding at all costs.



**GEMINI:** (May 21 - June 20)

This month your luck will be good and bad. You will receive a call from a random number. You and four of your friends are given a free cruise to Bermuda. Sounds fun! Feeling lucky, you will pick up a lottery ticket. You win \$100! Immediately you purchase a tub of mint chocolate chip ice cream, forgetting you're lactose intolerant. You will spend the next hour on the toilet.

This month: You will make friends with a rat.



**CANCER:** (June 21 - July 22)

This is not your month. Uranus is passing through your chart, meaning anything that can go wrong will go wrong. You discover that you're severely allergic to the color red. Every time you see or touch something red you will sneeze at least five times. Unfortunately, on your way to school one day you will run over a squirrel. You will then step in dog poop, and ruin your brand new shoes. Gross!

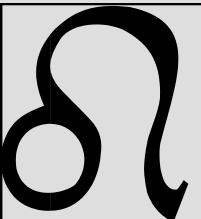
This month: Avoid squirrels, for you are their mortal enemy.



**LEO:** (July 23 - August 22)

Jupiter is in your star chart this month, indicating good luck! First, while shopping at the King of Prussia Mall you meet the love of your life. You meet at the Apple store, while you are holding your new phone. He/she catches your eye and you drop the phone, shattering it. You then have to pay for a new screen, but after that you have an amazing Chick-fil-A date in the food court, how romantic!

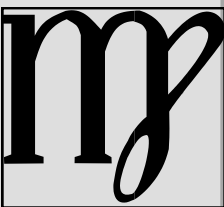
This month: Give a homeless man all your money.



**VIRGO:** (August 23 - September 22)

Virgos, listen up! This month, Neptune is in your star chart, so you may not feel your best. You will start to feel tired, and you will feel a cold coming on. This will cause a lack of energy, which causes your grades to flop. The only cure for this is eating six tomatoes for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. After doing this you will feel all better, but a bit bloated...

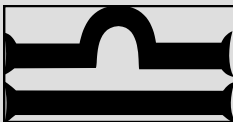
This month: Your computer will explode while working on a history project.



**LIBRA:** (September 23 - October 22)

This month your star chart isn't correctly aligned with Saturn so you will feel very glum. Your parents decide to go on a trip to Costa Rica and forget you at the airport. Homework only gets more intense and your grades will take a turn for the worst. But, do not despair! The local milkman left you an extra bottle of milk! Too bad it has turned chunky under the hot sun.

This month: You will find a dead goldfish in your bathtub.



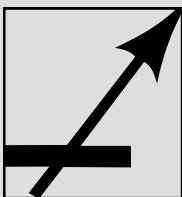
**SCORPIO:** (October 23 - November 21)

It's a very happy month for Scorpios! As Jupiter aligns with your star chart, you will feel more upbeat and optimistic! While at the local corn dog festival, a mysterious stranger will come up to you and ask for your number. You are intrigued, and you give your number to him/her. Later, they send you a picture of their turtle, Fitzgerald. You are now best friends with the mysterious person, and Fitzgerald.

This month: Peanut butter and tuna sandwiches are all you should eat.



**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 - December 21)



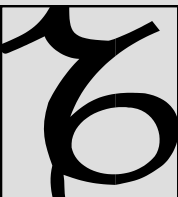
As Venus enters your star chart, you will need to stay as far away from chickens as possible. This includes live chickens, grilled chicken, and fried chicken. All chicken should be considered highly dangerous. If you come into contact with any chicken, you scream uncontrollably for an hour. It is necessary to eat as many pickled pigs feet as you can, to kill all the chicken germs.

This month: Wear a Superman suit and yell "I'm Batman!" every Friday.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 - January 19)

Having Mercury aligned with your star chart brings very good luck in love! You will meet him or her at a pet store while you are looking to buy a fish. He/she was looking for food for their pet iguana when you accidentally knocked into each other. You bond over your mutual love for pets and "Sharknado" films, quickly fall in love with each other, and adopt a guinea pig.

This month: Blow bubbles in history class.



**AQUARIUS:** (January 20 - February 18)

Mars has turned a deeper shade of red, which is terrible news for you, Aquarius. Your dog will walk away every time you try to pet it, and it will bark at you for eating his/her food. Your friends won't want to hang out with you anymore because you smell like dog food. They say, "It's us, not you! But to be honest, it's you." Soon, you will have to sit alone at lunchtime, eating Kibbles 'N Bits.

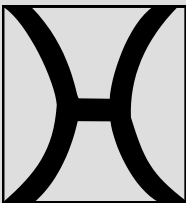
This month: Use your feet to clap.



**PISCES:** (February 19 - March 20)

Uranus is aligned with your star chart. This is incredible news for Pisces, for you will win a large sum of money this month! Spend every last penny on lottery tickets because you are assured to win big! To celebrate, you and your family go on a cruise to Bali. While there, a monkey steals your credit card. Later in the month, random packages of bananas will show up at your door.

This month: Your best friend will confess his/her undying love for you. Awkward!



## FOR ENTERTAINMENT ONLY



# What type of clothing store are you?

Written By: Kate Dobry

Everyone loves shopping, whether it's at the mall to get trendy clothes, thrift stores to save money and still look good, or department stores to buy a mix of everything. Take this clothing store quiz! Depending on your answers, you will find out what kind of stores you actually resonate with.

1. When a new season comes around, what kind of clothes do you get?  
A. The newest and trendiest clothes  
B. Whatever I like  
C. I prefer hand-me-downs or whatever fits well



TILLYS

- 2) You're decorating your living room, where's the first place you go to get stuff?  
A. Macy's  
B. Target  
C. Goodwill

- 3) Where do you like to go in your free time?  
A. The city  
B. A restaurant downtown  
C. A quiet garden

KOHL'S

- 5) If you won the lottery, what would you do with the money?  
A. Spend most of it  
B. Spend some, save some  
C. Save most of it

- 4) If you had to buy a whole new wardrobe for the year, what would your budget be?  
A. \$300+  
B. \$175-\$300  
C. \$25-\$150

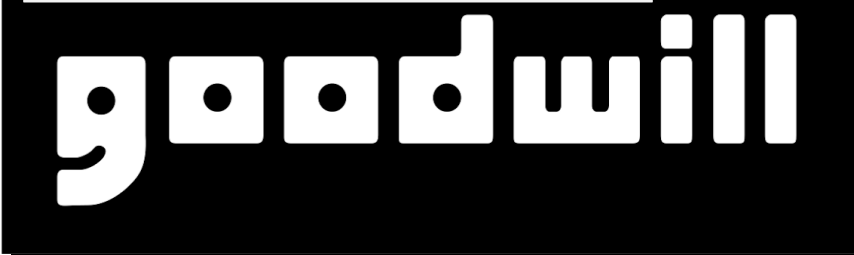


- 7) Which brand of car do you like the most?  
A. Mercedes  
B. Ford  
C. Kia

- 6) What is your favorite clothing brand?  
A. American Eagle  
B. Wildfable  
C. Any brand

TARGET

- 8) When you go clothes shopping, about how long do you go for?  
A. 4+ hours  
B. 2-4 hours  
C. About an hour



**Mostly A's:** You are a mall store, like Tilly's or Hot Topic! You like everything trendy and always want to look your best. You have money to spend, and you will; it doesn't matter how expensive that item is, if you want it, you will probably buy it. You often check Instagram to find out the latest fashion trends and try to fit in with the crowd. Hanging out with friends while shopping is a must as well.

**Mostly B's:** You are a department store, like KOHL'S or Target. You like a little bit of everything, whether it be clothes or home decor. You keep up with the trends, but being trendy and wearing high-priced clothes isn't that important to you. You may check social media for your style influences, but the influences don't really affect your style that much.

**Mostly C's:** You are a thrift store, like Goodwill or Shreveport Bossier . You don't really care about trends, as you often make your own! You also like to save money, and ultimately, save fabrics. Doing this makes you feel good about helping the environment and you enjoy being creative and sporting your own individuality.



# Sound Bank Mural Painting

The Phoenixville Area High School Visual Arts Department teamed up with a small business to complete a community-based mural project. Students and teachers painted an indoor mural at the Sound Bank Music Room and Taphouse, located on Main Street in Downtown Phoenixville. PAHS Mural Arts students collaborated to create the design, and the painting was completed on February 13, 2020. Students who volunteered to help execute this project were Ava Cesarski (grade 12), Anabel De Amorim (grade 11), Brooklin Greene (grade 11), Andrea Hook (grade 11), Anayeli Lopez Chilel (grade 12), Alana Lathan (grade 11), and Angelica Ortiz (grade 10).



PAHS' fabulous art teachers: **Mrs. Lees, Miss Alvino, and Mrs. Knabb.**



**Angelica Ortiz, Anayeli Lopez Chilel, Alana Lathan, and Mrs. Lees** fill in the initial outline with color, (above) while **Ava Cesarski** (left) applies touch ups later in the process.



*The completed wall at Sound Bank*  
*Photos: Miss Alvino*